

# Global Awareness activities set

by Anne Marie Forlini

Global Awareness Week, sponsored by Clarke College, Divine Word College, Loras College, University of Dubuque, Wartburg College, Seminary and the Midwest Missionaries Task Force, will be March 26-29.

"Global Awareness Week consists of people coming in from the community and speaking in classrooms. Their discussions relate to global experiences they have had," said Francine Banwarth, coordinator of Peace and Justice at Clarke. The purpose is to enhance our understanding of the global community in which we all live,

and to broaden the cultural exposure of students. She said there will be 33 guest speakers at the colleges, eight are from the Midwest Mission Task Force.

The Midwest Missionaries Task Force, which is headquartered in Chicago, consists of Catholic missionaries who are on sabbatical from their missionary work overseas. While in the United States they spread the news of their missionary work by offering presentations at colleges, high schools and interested community organizations, Banwarth said.

Events related to Global Awareness

Week will begin Saturday, March 24. The 10th commemoration of the assassination of Oscar Romero will be remembered by having a city-wide walk at 3 p.m. The walk begins at Washington Park in Dubuque and will end at the Center for a Just Society, 1201 Locust. At the center, a liturgical service will be held with a gathering afterwards.

Sunday, March 25, Clarke will have a liturgy at 11 a.m. in Sacred Heart Chapel. Members of the Task Force will say Mass and do the homily.

Folk singer John O'Connor will perform

Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at the Center for a Just Society. He wrote, folk music is the genuine voice of the people. "I have learned that songs—music with words attached—are a powerful medium....I have tried to write and sing my songs true and aim carefully."

Sunday evening, the Loras International Student Association will hold its annual International Dinner in the dining hall at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, March 26, Wartburg Theological Seminary will sponsor an update on the Namibian independence. A presentation and discussion of events in South Africa will be given by Dr. Charles Villa-Vicencio, professor of religious studies, from the University of Capetown, South Africa. These programs will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Fritschel Auditorium, a reception will follow.

Tuesday, March 27, Loras College will sponsor a global arts festival. Music, poetry, folk story reading, dancing and other activities will be featured. These events begin at 7 p.m. in Tuohy Auditorium.

Thursday, March 29, Clarke College will sponsor a peace and justice library dedication at 7 p.m. in the Wahlert Atrium. Peter and Martha Whitis who have been involved with peace and justice issues in the community, have donated books and video tapes to the Schrup Library will be honored by the Phoenix Peace and Justice group for their contributions.

Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Campus Ministry Center, Mary Josita Hall, S. Marge Healy, PBVM, will speak. Her topic is "Hope--A Gift from the Bolivian Campesinos." She will have slides and stories from Bolivia, South America's poorest country. Healy spent nine years in Bolivia and said, "I weave together stories of the people stories that speak of hope."

Most events are free and all events are open to the public.

## Musical evening on tap for weekend

by Julie Klein

The music department at Clarke will present its annual "Italian Night" dinner March 22, 23 and 25, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Wahlert Atrium. Entertainment will be provided by the waiters, waitresses and members from the music department.

Diners will enjoy Italian dishes such as chicken cacciatore or fish italiano as the main course, antipasto or pasta and spumoni ice cream for dessert.

Marilee Dean will sing the Italian aria, "O Mio Babbino Caro"; Darcy Lease will sing a selection from the musical, "Carnival"; Angelique Doolittle and Brian Brueck will sing songs from "Les Misérables"; Laura Fautsch will sing "I Cain't Say No" from "Oklahoma!"; and John Lease chair of the music department, will sing an Italian aria. The choir will perform various pieces from their repertoire.

Lease said he came up with the idea of having "Italian Night" two years ago. "I was trying to find a vehicle for music students to express themselves and to give the experience of singing for people." Lease said the last "Italian Night" was successful, so he's very positive that this year's activity will also be well-received.

"The people who came two years ago were very enthusiastic and really seemed to enjoy themselves."

Fautsch said she thinks "Italian Night" serves two purposes. "The first thing is that we provide people with enjoyable entertainment and good food. Secondly, it gives students at Clarke a chance to see what the music department does. Many people don't even know the talent that exists here. I think it's important that they find out."

## Quito benefit a success

by Beth White

On Thursday March 15th, Clarke hosted its annual variety show and auction to benefit the Working Boys' Center in Quito, Ecuador. S. Katherine Ann Beckman, Patti Hunter, Clarke's director of residence life and student activities, and Cheryl Marro, a Clarke junior, were responsible for this year's event.

"The main purpose of the annual auction is to earn funds to help the Boys' Center become a better place to live," said Beckman. "The variety show helps to entertain the audience."

The event started at 7:30 p.m. and took place in the Student Union. Auction prizes were donated by staff, faculty and local business persons who are interested in helping the Center. Prizes included a Clarke College sweatshirt donated by Jansport, Inc.; a Sunday brunch for eight from Sheila Castaneda, chair of the computer science department; an Italian dinner for four donated by Bobbie Ames, vice president for enrollment management; a calla lily centerpiece donated by the Dubuque Art Association; two sets of movie tickets donated by Mary Alice Muellerleile, vice president for academic affairs; City Looks hair care products donated by The Barbers; and a green plant donated by Butt's Florists. To obtain one of the donations at the auction attendees had to outbid other interested buyers. Proceeds from the auction will go toward the purchase of food and clothing for residents of the Quito centers and toward new plumbing for the facilities.

After the auction entertainers, including Clarke President S. Catherine Dunn, took the stage. Other performers included John Lease, chair of the music department and students Jason Oates, Bryan Brueck, Angelique Doolittle, Theresa Neuzil and Mike Shaeffer. The Clarke Pompon Squad and a group of South American students also performed.

Beckman started the Quito fund-raisers during the 1970's. She has become increasingly active in measures to assist the Boys' Center over the years. Her drives for soda cans, bazaar sales and the annual auction have raised thousands of dollars to help make life easier for the desperately poor of that city.

The Working Boy's Center receives 80 percent of its operating budget from individual benefactors, five percent from oc-

casional institutional grants and about 15 percent from income generated by the organization's self-supporting activities. The Center spends about \$2 per day on food for each person.

Beckman says that Quito's poverty is such that many people cannot rise above it without a helping hand. "Because the Center's 'family members' want to make the activity a success, they try to reach deep inside themselves to support the Center through their own work."

The Center focuses on ten areas of life in which Quito families can improve their lifestyles: loyalty, personal growth, economy, health, family, work, housing,

religion, instruction and recreation.

This September Beckman will move to Quito permanently and assist the Center in those areas where she is needed most. "I love working with the people of Quito. It gives me great satisfaction to help people who are trying so hard to help themselves," said Beckman.

Presently, there are three former Clarke sisters and one Clarke graduate working with the Boys' Center. S. Katherine will soon join them as a full-time assistant.

If you would like more information on the Working Boys' Center, contact S. Katherine Ann or Patti Hunter.



Kate Cary (l) discusses raffle drawings with S. Katherine Ann Beckman at the Quito Bazaar. (Photo by Anne Marie Forlini)

arycre...  
ents later, a Marycrest player with eight seconds left in the game, Winston brought the ball in from the baseline, Adam Rapp, Rapp and John Simon lead Clark...e-high 19 points. Winston and with 15 and 10.  
in with a 8-14 record, the Crusaders have a good position as they head to the NIAA tournament. The Crusaders sixth in their district ratings. The teams advance to the NIAA playoffs, they have a few adjust...  
our main problem at this point is playing as hard as we can. On. "If we play up to our potential, hole 40 minutes of a game, we have the ability to blow out most of the games we play."  
  
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# Opinion

## Opinion

### 'Geek Award' given

by Andrea Rafoth

I was sitting in my favorite restaurant recently. You know the kind. The last time it was decorated like I was in office.

The place has three rows of booths. One row is separated by an aisle and the other two, by a partial wall—partial enough that you hope the person on the other side does not turn your way to sneeze.

The coziness of the high-backed booths can tease one into thinking that conversations are private. Au contraire. No matter, since I was sans escort, my secrets were safe.

That didn't hold true, however, for the two young ladies to my right.

Yes, gentle reader, I was eavesdropping.

Through a blue-gray haze, the two were discussing the merits of smoking.

"I know I should quit, but it relaxes me. I mean there's nothing like a cup of coffee and a cigarette to get the day started."

"I love smoking after dinner and even more after... (giggles)."

"I know, but these things'll kill us."

Yeah, well, ya gotta go sometime. Lately though this brand just doesn't cut it.

You know, just the other night my boyfriend came by on his Harley to pick me up at my mom's and take me to the 'Toughman-Toughwoman' contest. Anyway in between fights, I went out to have a cigarette and wouldn't you know it, I was out. Anyway, I asked this chick next to me if I could bum one of hers and she gave me one and I lit it and it was

the best tasting cigarette I've ever had. I mean it was awesome."

"What kind was it?"

"Well, it's this new brand on the market called 'Dakota' and guess what? I found out that the tobacco company made it just for chicks like us. Isn't that great?"

"No kidding?"

"Yeah, this chick was telling me that this tobacco company out West somewhere, I don't know, Virginia or somewhere, markets them just for us."

"Yeah? How so?"

"Well, first ya gotta be a chick, which we are. Ya gotta be 18 to 21, which we are. You're not supposed to have been to college, which we haven't and ya gotta like motorcycles and trucks, which we do."

"That's great. I'm so sick of those skinny, up-town model types who hawk Virginia Slims. It's about time some big company did something for us."

"Ain't it the truth. I mean it really makes me feel special, ya know? More sophisticated. Oh, hey, I gotta run. I need to pick up some smokes before I take my boyfriend's chopper back to him."

"I gotta go too. See ya at the 'Bigfoot' competition next week."

As I sat there, puffing on my own cigarette, I said a quiet prayer for the three of us. At that moment, I also gave the "Geek of the Week" award to the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. for caring so much about us.

It started in 1917, spreading like wildfire, least in principle, to a unilateral reduction in nuclear weapons. At last everyone is beginning to feel at ease with the progression of democracy throughout the world.

But, a wise man once said, "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts." In other words, let's not relax our vigil or our defenses because a government that has been unfriendly decides to do an about-face and adopt democracy.

A tiger cannot change its stripes and anyone thinks that the Communist Bloc is suddenly going to embrace democratic ideals, they better think again.

Let's just look at history. Before World War II, Russia made an agreement with Germany and was allowed to move unmolested into territories that later Germany, herself, would invade. After being pushed back into their own territory, Russia went on the offensive and began "liberating" countries that had been overrun by Germany.

What of these countries that had been "liberated"?

Russian troops remained in these countries, spreading the ideals of communism and setting up puppet governments that were answerable directly to Moscow.

Can it be that Russia feels it cannot win a nuclear war without mass devastation?

What would be a better way of gaining more territory on its march toward world conquest than to lull the democratic world into believing that their principles had finally been accepted in communist countries.

Romanians deposed an oppressive dictator who got rich as his country became poorer and poorer. They have elected a supposed democratic government to replace him.

Many of the communist satellites have followed suit—with socialist leaders stepping aside and allowing what they call democratic election of leaders.

Most shocking of all is that Mother Russia itself has allowed a democratic vote to

## Commentary

### Changes in Eastern Europe may not be all they seem

by David Zirtzman

The Soviet Union has also agreed, at least in principle, to a unilateral reduction in nuclear weapons. At last everyone is beginning to feel at ease with the progression of democracy throughout the world.

The names of the countries that have fallen under its spell are synonymous with the repression it tries to keep the rest of the world from knowing. Names like East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary on the continent of Europe; Russia, China, North Korea, Tibet, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia in Asia; and Cuba in the Americas are some of the areas that repression has touched.

Besides these, any other country or region that may be in a state of revolution is far from being safe.

It is very clear to most people what these names have in common. They are all satellites of one of the most powerful and repressive governments in the world. A government that for nearly seven decades has been ruled by iron-fisted dictators who adhere to the teachings of Marx and Lenin. Countries that are ruled by the ideology of communism.

Now, all of a sudden, the leaders of the Soviet Union, as well as the leaders of its satellite nations, have made a complete about-face and have embraced the basic ideas of democracy.

The Berlin Wall, which divided East and West Germany for nearly three decades, has suddenly been dismantled, allowing a new generation of Communists to enter the free portion of a country divided by political systems since 1945.

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## Letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

About abortion and the Fifth Commandment, which is: Thou shalt not kill.

To the question—if everyone is judged immediately after death, what is there of a general judgement?

The answer is—there is need of a general

judgement. Though everyone is judged immediately after death, that the providence of God, which on earth, often permits the good to suffer and the wicked to prosper, may in the end appear just before all men.

Mary A. Crowe  
Rochester, N.Y.

## Loras prof decries Contra activity

by Dorothy Wendel

Dr. Paul Allen, professor of social and moral problems at Loras College, returned to Dubuque from Nicaragua on January 13. One of his missions included delivering school supplies, which were collected by Clarke students, to the needy Nicaraguan peasants.

Allen has spent a total of 14 months in Nicaragua over the past four years. He is eager to discuss his personal opinions and experiences regarding that country's civil war.

For nearly a decade the civilian population of Nicaragua has been terrorized by the Contras, a group of rebels who are financially backed by the United States. Allen asks people not to believe those who would try to convince you that the farm people killed by the Contra are Communists or threats of any kind to the United States. He also asks us not to believe that the Contras are receiving only humanitarian aid and that they now reside inside Honduras.

"On the contrary," said Allen, "what the Contras do is painfully clear to me. I wish you, too, could have the personal opportunity to experience the reality of their, and our, war against the Nicaraguan peasants."

A few of the recent attacks that touched Allen most include:

□ The murder of 18 people traveling from their village to register to vote. He helped them pipe drinking water to their small settlement just last summer.

□ The death of Modesto, son of one of Allen's fellow workers, as he walked along the road near home. A grenade was stuffed into his backpack—with the pin pulled.

□ The driver of a milk truck, a church leader, was killed by one of the 22 bullets that riddled the cab of the co-op's only vehicle. Allen and his son had driven that vehicle to Nicaragua a year ago with the Pastors for Peace convoy.

□ Two nuns from a parish were indiscriminately gunned to death as their vehicle traveled the road from Siuna. This incident made news in the United States because one of the nuns was from North America. The seven religious communities of women who work in Nicaragua lamented this "Contra-revolutionary ambush." Allen says that the cost in lives to have our own American soldiers do the work of the Contra is too great, so our country pays someone else to do it.

According to Allen, in addition to the Contra terrorism that consists of many more threats ("Vote for UNO (United Opposition Party) or else") than murders these days, there is of course, the economic boycott. Every six months, the president must declare Nicaragua to be an "extraordinary and unusual threat to the security of the United States" in order to justify this economic punishment, according to Allen.

Apparently some people feel that any Nicaraguan struggle for self-rule is a threat to our country's security. Check it out with any of the several thousands of United States citizens who have visited Nicaragua in the past five years. Find out how threatening they find the government and people there. Talk with the nuns, priests and ministers who live and work with the people," Allen said.

Allen cites several reasons for the suf-

ferring. A bloody revolution ousted Somoza in 1979, who escaped with the remaining funds of an already bankrupt country. Millions of United States dollars have avalanched in ever since to fund a counter-revolution against the new, duly-elected government. The United States disregards decisions by the United Nations General Assembly, the International Court of Justice and others. And, Allen said, millions

(continued on page 4)

## Brain Burner

Two women were meeting at a restaurant for a business lunch. They asked each other how the husbands and children were doing and one of the women pulled out her wallet to show the other a picture of her family. She pointed at one of the people and then said, "I'm an only child, but this woman's mother is my mother's daughter." Who was she pointing at?

Submit your name, phone number, work and answer to the puzzle and mail to the Math Club, Box 1125, by Friday, March 30.

Winners will be placed in a drawing that will take place at the end of the semester. The winner will receive a gift certificate from the bookstore.



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*The Courier welcomes input from members of P.O. Box 862, Clarke College. Letters must be signed and are subject to editing for space.*

*The Courier is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and holds an All American Rating from the National Scholastic Press Association.*



Baby-photo cont



B. Art

# Feature

## Announcements, Briefs, & Coming Events

Financial Aid applications must be submitted to ACT prior to April 20 in order to meet the Iowa Tuition Grant deadline. Forms are available in the financial aid office.

**abc**

The Dubuque Museum of Art's Brown Bag Lecture series will conclude Wednesday, March 28 at the Museum, 8 and Central in the Old Jail Gallery. Martha Siembieda, B.A. candidate from Clarke, will speak on "Archaeology and the Bible." Coffee and tea will be available, bring your lunch. The lecture is free and open to the public.

**abc**

Joan Soppe's BFA art exhibit will open Saturday, March 24, with a reception from 7-9 p.m. in Quigley Gallery 1550.

**abc**

The American Poetry Association and International Publications poetry contest end March 31.

**abc**

The Fifth Annual Sinipee Writers' Workshop will be held April 21 in Alumnae Lecture Hall at Clarke College from 8:30-5 p.m. The workshop costs \$60 in advance, \$65 at the door or \$30 for students. Tuition includes lunch and refreshments. For registration and information call 556-0366 or write to Sinipee Writers' Group, P.O. Box 902, Dubuque, Iowa, 52001.

**abc**

The following students will be resident assistants for the 1990-91 school year: Deanna Angst, Lonnie Behnke, Amy Bopp, Kristi Bopp, Lucinda Cadet, Julie Fogarty, Joel Gehling, Cheryl Marro, Christine Noel, Adam Rapp, Diane Sheets, Sheila Streets, Angie Trimble, Tammy Tucker, Dennis Welu and Torris Winston.

**abc**

The annual Crop Walk will be Saturday, April 7, at 12:30 p.m. beginning at Loras College. The six mile walk will benefit local and world hunger. Pledge forms may be picked up in the Campus Ministry office at Clarke.

**abc**

The Student Conservation Association will be offering over 1,000 conservation and resource management volunteer positions. Positions include high school or college student or older adults during 1990. Opport-

tunities are available throughout the year. SCA is currently accepting applications for position to be offered during the 1990 summer and fall seasons. Applications should be received by March 1. Applications will be accepted until later dates. For more information contact Dean S. Klein at (603) 826-4301.

**abc**

KH&H Productions presents Bob Randall's romantic comedy, "6 Rms Riv U." The dinner theater will be presented at 7 p.m. March 23, 24, 30 and 31 and Sunday March 25 and April 1 at 6 p.m. in the Five Flags Bijou Room. Tickets are \$10.50.

**abc**

Reparenting Ourselves: Filling in Where Our Parents Left Off, a workshop for non-traditional students, with Virginia Spiegel, BVM, is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 from 7-9 p.m. in the Mary Jo Formal Lounge.

**abc**

The Sinipee Writers' Group will sponsor the Fifth Annual Sinipee Writing Prize for fiction and poetry. Subject and style are open. Entries must be typed, double-spaced be an original unpublished piece. Include name, address and phone number is upper left hand corner. A \$5 reading fee must accompany each entry. Entries must be received by April 9. Send entries to: Sinipee Writers' Group, P.O. Box 902, Dubuque, Ia. 52001. For more information call 556-0366.

**abc**

The Iowa Management Association is sponsoring an internship program for students between their junior and senior years in Iowa colleges to provide meaningful summer employment in their chosen career field. Students must have completed three full years of college and meet a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a four-point system. For more information write to: Iowa Management Association, 4717 Woodland Ave. no. 1, West Des Moines, Ia. 50265 or call Bob Dick at 224-9780.

**abc**

Glacier Park Montana is looking to hire college students for summer jobs in all segments of hotel and hospitality areas. For details on jobs and salaries, call Glacier Park, Inc., at (602) 248-2612.

## Baby-photo contest



A. Computer Science



B. Art

There was no winner in last issue's contest. The babies were Ann Heinz and Greta Fluhr.

The Courier staff is sponsoring a Senior Baby Photo Contest. The weekly contest is open to everyone and involves identifying both Clarke seniors.

Submit your answers to the Courier, PO Box 995. All correct answers submitted will be placed in a drawing, from which one winner will be selected. Answers must be submitted by the Tuesday following publication.

The winner and prize for this week's contest will be announced in the next issue of the Courier.

## First in a series

### Cancer facts outlined

by Christen Sadowski

It is estimated that in 1990 there will be 1,040,000 cases of cancer reported in the U.S. To 510,000 people this disease will be fatal.

Cancer is made up of approximately 100 different diseases that result from uncontrolled, abnormal growth of cells. These cells form a tumor that can destroy surrounding tissue and can spread throughout the blood and affect other areas.

Cancer effects people of all ages. However, there is a clear distinction between childhood and adult cancers. Not much is heard of cancer in young adults. College-aged cancer patients are categorized in a grey area to distinguish their cancer from the childhood or adult cancer.

This is the first in a series of articles on the three leading forms of cancer in college-aged students and their diagnosis, treatment, prevention and emotional aspects.

Hodgkin's disease is a form of cancer that affects the lymphatic system. Lymphatic cancer, in all of its forms is the seventh most common cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. It is estimated that in 1990, 7,400 new cases of Hodgkin's disease will be reported, of which 4,200 will be male and 3,200 will be female; 1,600 of those patients will die from the disease.

The lymphatic system is part of the circulatory system and plays a major role in the ability to fight infection. The disease begins with a swelling of the lymph glands that run throughout the neck, armpits or groin. The glands manufacture lymphocytes which is a type of white blood cell that fights the spread of infection. The abnormal growth of these cells leaves the body with fewer cells to combat infection.

According to Jeffery Stephenson, M.D. of the Wendt Regional Cancer Center in Finley Hospital, the formation of this lymphoma begins in the late teens and early twenties. It can begin in one of the lymph nodes and travel to the others by way of the circulatory system. It is this channeling throughout the body that causes the lymphoma to be dubbed a disease and not just cancer.

Detection of the disease is arranged through a biopsy to determine whether the mass is malignant or benign. Tissue samples are taken and examined by a pathologist to determine if the cancer could have spread to other lymph nodes. Diagnostic X-rays help to determine if the disease has spread throughout the body.

Hodgkin's disease is divided into stages depending on the extent of the disease. When localized to one lymph node, it is classified as Stage I. If it has spread to adjacent lymph regions above or below the diaphragm, it is categorized as Stage II. When it is found above or below the diaphragm, it is Stage III. When it has spread to other regions such as the lungs, bone, liver or kidneys, it is classified as Stage IV.

Stephenson reported that treatment is divided between radiation therapy and chemotherapy depending on the stage of the disease. Radiation therapy is the use of X-rays and lasers to destroy the tumor,

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# Sports

## Softball team enters second season

by Wayne Glenn

Because of the constant and rapid growth of the Clarke College athletic program, it is almost a tradition for the sports fans at Clarke to watch its newly established teams struggle for a few years until it matures into a competitive college level

team. If this is in fact the sports tradition around the Clarke community, there just might be a team that can break the tradition. Introducing the 1990 Clarke College Women's Softball team.

The Crusaders are led by Head Coach Vicki Hansen, with help of her assistant



Ellen Fitzpatrick swings her bat during practice at Dubuque Senior's softball field.  
(Photo by Vanessa Van Fleet)

### Nicaragua...

of United States dollars have funded an opposition candidate who won the recent election. "Only if you are unaware or unwilling to accept these implications, can you fix the blame on Sandinista errors of inefficiency," he said.

Allen said that the economic boycott is a "bully tactic" to get the people of Nicaragua to vote the Sandinistas out of control. He said that President George Bush promised to lift the boycott only if Violeta Barrios de Chamorro was elected the new Nicaraguan leader.

At a recent election, Chamorro was elected leader of Nicaragua, and Bush has lifted the boycott. According to Allen, the people of Nicaragua elected Chamorro only to have the boycott lifted, along with the hopes of once again living in peace. "The

peasants of Nicaragua know nothing about politics; they only want to be left alone and to no longer fear Contra attacks. When such a powerful neighbor as the United States tells them there is only one way to achieve that want, what choice do they have?" Allen asks.

opinion that the Contras will now turn into death squads and become war animals. He sees them as operating "under the table," wiping out local Sandinista leaders who are active in villages. He also feels news items such as this will never be seen on our American press releases.

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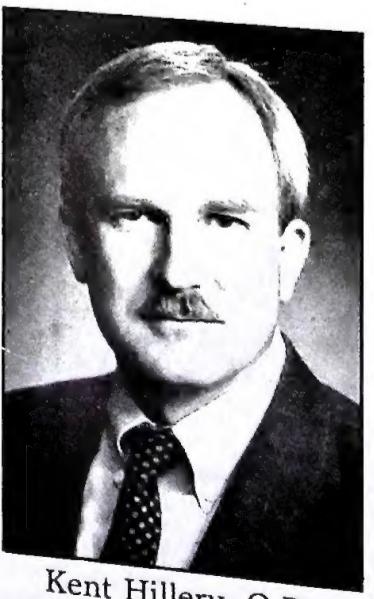
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Kent Hillery, O.D.

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coaches Keith Sanders and Brian Shaw. The 1990 roster is made up of freshmen Amy Mohr, Laura Wolf, Laura Schlaman and Jenny Clasen; sophomores Teresa Murphy, Sherri Nemmers, Jacquelyn Hawkins, Angela Hernandez, Ellen Fitzpatrick, Patricia Beucher and Joan Crock; and junior Rhonda Weaver.

For most teams it is more of a negative than a plus to be a young team. But this does not seem to be true of the Crusaders. The women have a key word for the season, "aggressiveness," which may be exactly the type of attitude the team needs. The team plans to use their mental and physical aggressiveness to overcome its youth.

"Being young does have its negative aspects, because we don't have the experience and senior leadership," said Sanders. "But on the other hand age is just a number, and softball is more than experience. It is based on talent and hard work. If we match that up with being mentally prepared, we can overcome the aspects of being so young."

This will be the second season of women's softball at Clarke, and already the team plans to be very competitive in their conference. "Even though we didn't have the year we wanted last year, we still ended on a positive note," said Weaver. "And with the help of the coaches and new players, we have managed to carry the positive energy over to this season.

The team has come together as a solid unit. Although there were not many wins last season, there were many lessons learned. The team has grown as a competitive college team. The women have learned from the past season that they must win as a team and lose as a team.

No one or two people can win a season; they must do it together. This lesson has created a bond between the players that has made them into something more than a team, but also a family.

"We have learned to work with each other and not against each other," said Fitzpatrick. "An attitude that was missing on last year's team."

The Crusaders have many returning players this season, they also have many additional arrivals that will compliment them. "We lost a few key players from last year's team," said Weaver, "but the new players we have this season fit right into the positions that needed to be filled and they also have enough talent to fill them well."

Assistant Coach Sanders believes that the Crusaders' future success rests on the women's shoulders and no one else's. "They can be as good as they want to be. They are more serious than they were last season and they have more drive," he said. "The potential for a great season is there, but it's up to them to decide how bad they want it. They must go into each and every game mentally ready."

The Crusaders are out to prove something. Last year they had to be satisfied with being in the game when it was over. "We will be an exciting team to watch," said Weaver. "We would appreciate if the fans will come out and support us."

Over half of the Crusaders' games will be home games. They want the Clarke sports fans to know that they do make a difference. The Crusaders first game is Saturday, March 24, against Mundelein College at 1 p.m. at Senior High School.

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